

On Top Of The News Email:news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Monday, March 30, 2015



SHIFTING SANDS

Arab League Unveils Joint Military Force

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, center, walks with Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani at the Arab League Summit, in Sharm el-Sheikh, South Sinai, Egypt. Arab League member states have agreed in principle to form a joint inter-Arab military peacekeeping force. (AP Photo/MENA)

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Officials: Iran nuke talks solving some issues, not others



US Secretary of State John Kerry, second right, takes a walk during a break of a new round of talks on the Iranian nuclear program in Lausanne, Switzerland, Sunday, March 29, 2015.

(AP Photo/Jean-Christophe Bott)

GEORGE JAHN

MATTHEW LEE

Associated Press

LAUSANNE, Switzerland

(AP) — Iran is considering demands for further cuts to its uranium enrichment program but is pushing back on how long it must limit technology it could use to make atomic arms, Western officials involved in the nuclear talks said Sunday. Iran's potential movement on enrichment reflected the intense pressure to close a deal.

But substantial differences between the sides may prove too difficult to bridge before Tuesday's deadline for a preliminary agreement, which is meant to set the stage for a further round of negotiations toward a comprehensive deal in June.

The goal is a long-term curb on Iran's nuclear activities. In return, Tehran would gain relief from the burden of global economic penalties.

Foreign ministers and other representatives of Iran and the six powers in the talks have said there is a chance of succeeding by the deadline despite significant obstacles.

White House spokesman

Josh Earnest said it was up to Iran to make that happen.

By accepting the restrictions, the Iranians would "live up to their rhetoric that they are not trying to acquire a nuclear weapon," he said in Washington on ABC's "This Week."

From Israel, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu renewed strong criticism of what he brands a bad deal. He is at the forefront of accusations that Iran helped the recent Shiite rebel advance in Yemen, and Netanyahu linked Iran's alleged proxy grab for influence in the Middle East with what he sees as victory by Tehran at the negotiations in the Swiss city of Lausanne.

"The Iran-Lausanne-Yemen axis is very dangerous for humanity and must be stopped," he said.

U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, heading a delegation of American senators visiting Israel, said the lawmakers supported legislation to require Congress to approve any agreement on Iran's nuclear program, or to increase penalties against Iran if no deal is reached.

The officials in Lausanne

said the sides were advancing on limits to aspects of Iran's uranium enrichment program, which can be used to make the core of a nuclear warhead. Over the past weeks, Iran has moved from demanding that it be allowed to keep nearly 10,000 centrifuges enriching uranium, to agreeing to 6,000. The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity

because they were not authorized to publicly discuss the talks, said Tehran now may be ready to accept even fewer.

Tehran is ready to ship to Russia all the enriched uranium it produces, the officials said, describing a change from previous demands that Iran be permitted to keep a small amount in stock.

One official cautioned that

Iran previously had agreed to this, only to change its mind. Also, Iran's official IRNA news agency on Sunday cited an unidentified Iranian negotiator as denying such an agreement had been reached. Uranium enrichment has been the chief concern in over more than a decade of international attempts to cap Iran's nuclear programs. □

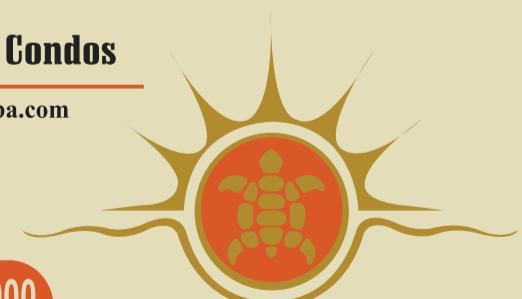
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Air Canada plane skids off Halifax runway after hard landing

HALIFAX, Nova Scotia (AP)

— An Air Canada plane made a hard landing short of the runway at the Halifax airport during a snow-storm, crashing into a bank of antennas and shearing off its main landing gear, nose cone, and an engine as it skidded on its belly, officials said. The airline said Sunday that 25 people were taken to hospitals for observation and treatment of minor injuries.





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This photo provided by the Transportation Safety Board of Canada shows a Air Canada Airbus A-320 at Halifax International Airport after making an "abrupt" landing and skidding off the runway in bad weather early Sunday, March 29, 2015.

(AP Photo/NTSB of Canada)

told a news conference. Cunningham said the plane hit an antenna array, shearing the main landing gear off before sliding on its belly onto the runway for another 1,100 feet before coming to a stop. Cunningham said there was significant damage to the plane and could not rule out weather as a factor. He also said he believes a power line was severed, which led to a loss of power at the airport.

Air Canada Chief Operating Officer Klaus Goersch said 25 people were taken to local hospitals and all but one of them were released.

"All of us at Air Canada are greatly relieved that there have been no critical injuries as a result of this incident," he said.

The Transportation Safety Board provided pictures that showed significant damage to the plane with the nose torn off and an engine crumpled under a damaged wing.

"This was not a hard landing. This was an actual crash," said Mike Magnus, a 60-year-old businessman who was sitting in the first row. "It was the closest I've

ever came to death. There is no doubt in my mind. Obviously that's some political maneuvering."

Magnus added that the snow covering the runway likely extinguished any sparks that might have caused the plane to catch fire.

Power went off at the airport. Nova Scotia Power later tweeted that power had been restored. Cpl. Greg Church of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police said a power line south of the runway was damaged. Halifax Stanfield International Airport spokesman Peter Spurway credited the crew and passengers for evacuating the plane within a minute.

"We just kicked the doors out and jumped onto the wing and then ran because we just wanted to get away from the airplane in case of explosions or anything," said Dominic Stettler, a father of three.

Some passengers complained they were left standing on the tarmac, some in their stocking feet, for up to 50 minutes as they were lashed by wind-whipped snow before buses arrived. □



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Police:

2nd body found 3 days after New York City explosion

MEGHAN BARR
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Emergency workers found a second body Sunday in the mass of rubble left behind by an apparent gas explosion three days earlier in lower Manhattan, police said.

The names of the two dead were not immediately released; a medical examiner was to determine the identifications.

Authorities had been looking for signs of two missing men, both believed to have been inside a ground floor sushi restaurant at the time of the explosion: 26-year-old Moises Lucon, who worked at the restaurant, and 23-year-old Nicholas Figueroa, a bowling alley worker who had been there on a date. During the day, workers raked through piles of



Police, fire and forensic teams at the site of Thursday's gas explosion in the East Village neighborhood of New York, March 29, 2015. Rescue workers have located a body in the wreckage, the police said on Sunday afternoon. Two men have been missing since the blast.

(Christopher Gregory/The New York Times)

loose brick and wood; rescue workers sent search dogs over debris where three apartment buildings

once stood.

Several members of Figueroa's family visited the blast site in the East Village

neighborhood on Sunday, holding flowers and crying. Figueroa's brother, Neal, leaned over barricades

and shouted pleas to emergency workers: "He's a strong man, I know he's in there! Don't give up, please find my brother." Authorities, however, acknowledged the chances of finding anyone alive were slim.

Mayor Bill de Blasio said someone may have improperly tapped a gas line before the explosion that injured 22 people, four of them critically.

Consolidated Edison said utility workers had discovered in August that the gas line to the restaurant had been illegally tapped.

The discovery led Con Edison to shut down gas service to the building for about 10 days while the building owner made repairs.

Gas service was restored after the utility deemed it safe, the utility said. □



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Indiana governor: New law 'not about discrimination'

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Indiana's governor defended the new state law that's garnered widespread criticism over concerns it could foster discrimination against gays and said Sunday it wasn't a mistake to have enacted it.

Gov. Mike Pence appeared on ABC TV's "This Week with George Stephanopoulos" to discuss the measure he signed last week prohibiting state laws that "substantially burden" a person's ability to follow his or her religious beliefs. The definition of "person" includes religious institutions, businesses and associations.

Some national gay-rights groups say it's a way for lawmakers in Indiana and other states where such bills have been proposed this year to essentially grant a state-sanctioned waiver for discrimination against gays and lesbians as the U.S. Supreme Court prepares to hear arguments next month over the constitutionality of same-sex marriage.

Supporters of the law, including Pence, contend discrimination claims are overblown and insist it will keep the government from compelling people to provide services they find ob-

jectionable on religious grounds. They also maintain courts haven't allowed discrimination under similar laws covering the federal government and 19 other states.

Arkansas is poised to follow in Indiana's footsteps, with a final vote expected next week in the state House on legislation that Republican Gov. Asa Hutchinson has said he'll sign.

Since Pence signed the bill into law Thursday, Indiana has been widely criticized by businesses and organizations around the U.S., as well as on social media with the hashtag #boycottindiana. Already, consumer review service Angie's List has said it will suspend a planned expansion in Indianapolis because of the new law.

Pence, a Republican, did not answer directly when asked at least six times whether under the law it would be legal for a merchant to refuse to serve gay customers.

"This is not about discrimination, this is about empowering people to confront government overreach," he said.

Sexual orientation is not covered under Indiana's civil rights law. Pence has



Thousands of opponents of Indiana Senate Bill 101, the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, gathered on the lawn of the Indiana State House to rally against that legislation. Republican Gov. Mike Pence signed a bill Thursday prohibiting state laws that "substantially burden" a person's ability to follow his or her religious beliefs.

said he "won't be pursuing that."

Pence told the Indianapolis Star on Saturday that he was in discussions with legislative leaders over the weekend and expects a clarification bill to be introduced in the coming week. He addressed that Sunday, saying, "If the General Assembly ... sends me a bill

that adds a section that reiterates and amplifies and

clarifies what the law really is and what it has been for the last 20 years, then I'm open to that."

But Pence was adamant that the measure, slated to take effect in July, will stick. "We're not going to change this law," Pence said.

Josh Earnest, President Barack Obama's spokesman, appeared on "This Week" just after Pence,

and said the debate isn't a political argument.

"If you have to go back two decades to try to justify what you're doing today, it may raise questions," Earnest said, referring to the 1993 federal law Pence brought up.

He added that Pence "is in damage-control mode this morning and he's got some damage to fix." □

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Institute honoring the late Sen. Kennedy to open in Boston



The late U.S. Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, center left, is surrounded by children in a framed photograph that rests on a desk he once owned, displayed in a replica of his U.S. Senate office at the Edward M. Kennedy Institute, in Boston. The \$79 million institute is scheduled to be dedicated on Monday, March 30, 2015.

BOB SALSBURG

Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Before his death from brain cancer in 2009, U.S. Sen. Edward Kennedy insisted a building that would one day bear his name be less about his own legacy and more about the institution he loved and toiled in for more

than half his life.

"He never envisioned this place as being about one man," said Victoria Reggie Kennedy, his widow and president of the board of directors of the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate. "He saw it as being about the nearly 2,000 men and

women who have served in the United States Senate and about the future senators who will be walking through those doors." On Monday, the \$79 million facility that sits adjacent to the presidential library of his brother, John F. Kennedy, is scheduled to be dedicated at a politically star-stud-

ded event attended by President Barack Obama, first lady Michelle Obama, Vice President Joe Biden and a host of current and former senators of both parties. It opens to the public on Tuesday.

Kennedy, the Democratic "liberal lion" of the Senate, began to conceptualize the institute long before he became ill, with its centerpiece being a full-scale replica of the Senate chamber where visitors can role-play as senators weighing the pressing issues of the day, family members said in recent interviews.

"It's a living legacy. It's not an inert building with his name on it," said Kennedy's younger son, former Rhode Island congressman Patrick Kennedy.

At one time, said Connecticut state Sen. Ted Kennedy, Jr., his father had planned to devote his time to the institute and even serve as its first director upon retiring from the Senate. He did not live to see construction begin.

The road to Monday's opening ceremony was not entirely without bumps.

Mild objections occasionally arose over the \$38 million in federal funds and grants that helped finance the project. But Kennedy's famous ability to work across party lines and cement friendships with Republican colleagues may have helped mute the criticism.

"Even though he could be a fierce partisan himself at times, he never let that stand in the way of being able to work with somebody," said Ted Kennedy, Jr.

Republican Sen. John McCain is among the sitting senators scheduled to attend Monday's dedication. Former Senate Republican leader Trent Lott of Mississippi is a board member of the institute and current Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell is scheduled to speak at an event there in May, officials said. McCain told CBS' "Face the Nation" on Sunday that Kennedy always kept his word — even if it was difficult — and found a way to work across party lines despite much verbal jousting on the Senate floor. □



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Arab League Unveils Joint Military Force Amid Yemen Crisis

HAMZA HENDAWI

Associated Press

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt

(AP) — A two-day Arab summit ended Sunday with a vow to defeat Iranian-backed Shiite rebels in Yemen and the formal unveiling of plans to form a joint Arab intervention force, setting the stage for a potentially dangerous clash between U.S.-allied Arab states and Tehran over influence in the region.

Arab leaders taking turns to address the gathering spoke repeatedly of the threat posed to the region's Arab identity by what they called moves by "foreign" or "outside parties" to stoke sectarian, ethnic or religious rivalries in Arab states — all thinly-veiled references to Iran, which has in recent years consolidated its hold in Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and now Yemen.

The summit's final communique made similarly vague references, but the Arab League chief, Nabil Elaraby, was unequivocal during a news conference later, singling out Iran for what he said was its inter-

vention "in many nations." A summit resolution said the newly unveiled joint Arab defense force would be deployed at the request

ar program in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions.

The Saudis and their allies in the Gulf fear that a nuclear

to what they see as Iran's bullying. The United States has sought to offer reassurances that a nuclear deal does not mean that Washington will abandon them, but they remain skeptical.

The Houthis swept down from their northern strongholds last year and captured Yemen's capital, Sanaa, in September. Embattled Yemeni President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi, a close U.S. ally against a powerful local al-Qaida affiliate, first fled to the southern city of Aden before fleeing the country last week as the rebels closed in.

Speaking at the summit on Saturday, Hadi accused Iran of being behind the Houthi offensive, raising the

specter of a regional conflict. Iran and the Houthis deny that Tehran arms the rebel movement, though both acknowledge the Islamic Republic is providing humanitarian and other aid.

On Sunday, the Saudi ambassador to the U.S., Adel al-Jubeir, said the Lebanese Hezbollah militia was also supporting the Houthis.

The Saudi-led campaign, he said on NBC's "Meet the Press," is to protect Yemen's "legitimate government from a group that is allied and supported by Iran and Hezbollah."

A Saudi-led coalition began bombing Yemen on Thursday, saying it was targeting the Houthis and their allies, which include forces loyal to Yemen's former leader, Ali Abdullah Saleh. Yemeni military officials have said the campaign could pave the way for a possible ground invasion, a development that Egyptian military officials say would likely commence after the airstrikes significantly diminish the military capabilities of the Houthis and their allies.

Yemen's foreign minister, Riad Yassin, said the air campaign, code-named Operation Decisive Storm, had prevented the rebels from using the weaponry they seized to attack Yemeni cities or to target neighboring Saudi Arabia with missiles. It also stopped Iran's supply line to the rebels, he told a news conference Sunday. □



Saudi Foreign Minister Saud bin Faisal bin Abdulaziz Al Saud reviews a document during an Arab foreign ministers meeting in Sharm el-Sheikh, South Sinai, Egypt, Sunday, March 29, 2015. Arab League member states have agreed in principle to form a joint inter-Arab military peacekeeping force.

(AP Photo/Thomas Hartwell)

of any Arab nation facing a national security threat and that it would also be used to combat terrorist groups.

The agreement came as U.S. and other Western diplomats were pushing to meet a Tuesday deadline to reach a deal with Iran that would restrict its nucle-

deal between Washington and Tehran will free Iran's hands to bolster its influence in places like Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and in Sunni-ruled Bahrain, which has a Shiite majority.

They believe the air campaign in Yemen and a joint Arab force would empower them to stand up

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France:

Conservatives win key votes, government left loses



French far-right National Front Party leader, Marine Le Pen smiles after a news conference at party headquarters, Sunday, March 29, 2015, in Nanterre, western Paris, France

(AP Photo/Jacques Brinon)

SYLVIE CORBET

ELAINE GANLEY

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Former President Nicolas Sarkozy blasted the "lies, denial and impotence" of France's governing Socialists after estimates showed his conservative party and their allies chalked up wins across France in Sunday's local elections that saw the left lose nearly half of its councils. The far-right National Front edged forward in its bid to create an army of grassroots support, but fell short of its dream to capture its first council.

Socialist Prime Minister Manuel Valls conceded that the mainstream right won the voting.

"It is incontestable," Valls said, bemoaning divisions within the left that he said proved costly.

The Socialists even lost its hold on the council in Corrèze, President Francois Hollande's home away from home in the French heartland, taken back by the right, the Interior Ministry said.

Valls' political fief, the Essonne, south of Paris, appeared headed for a victory by the rival right.

Marine Le Pen, leader of the anti-immigration National Front, may be in for a bitter surprise, apparently failing to win a single council, even the southern Vaucluse where her niece Marion Marechal-Le Pen, one of three party lawmakers, is a major figure. The National Front chief was trium-

phant after last week's first round when her party took 25 percent of the vote, second behind the mainstream right. Still, her party can claim as many as 90 councilors around France. The Interior Ministry, counting results of 66 of 98 regions, said Sarkozy's UMP and its allies won 46 percent of the vote, compared to 34 percent for the left and 20 percent for the National Front.

Sarkozy, in a victory statement, said the right would prepare a changing of the guard "to redress the country, stop the decline that the most archaic socialism in Europe has plunged it into."

Estimates suggested the anti-immigration National Front could win up to two councils with scores that Valls said were "clearly in progression."

The political stakes were high despite the local vote as Hollande's left tried to save itself after failing to boost the lagging French economy or increase jobs and Sarkozy's right eyed a comeback, and each side tried to fend off the anti-immigration National Front which comes off a series of electoral victories.

The elections were a "critical step for the patriot movement on the road to power," National Front leader Marine Le Pen said. "The goal is near, reaching power and applying our ideas to redress France."

Valls had called on voters to choose anyone running,

even a rival conservative, to block a National Front candidate, and he suggested the large victory by the right was partially because of his calls for solidarity against the far right. Sarkozy refused to reciprocate, telling supporters to simply abstain if a candidate from his UMP party wasn't running.

Valls said the French economy was showing signs of improvement, and vowed to march onward with his program.

"Jobs. Jobs. Jobs," Valls said, announcing plans for a new measure in the coming days addressing public and private investment. Turnout was lower three hours before polls closed, measured at 41.94 percent compared to 42.98 per-

cent in the first round, the Interior Ministry said. Voters cast ballots to choose 4,108 local council members across the country for the 98 councils. Candidates appear on ballots in pairs — one man, one woman — to ensure that 50 percent of council members are women.

Le Pen, who wasn't a candidate in the election but looked toward the 2017 presidential race, said Sunday that new council members would help win future elections, saying her party is the "only real opposition" to the powers that be in France.

Regional elections are set for December, and all parties are laying the groundwork for 2017 presidential voting. □

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Pope prays for plane crash dead during Palm Sunday Mass

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Francis opened solemn Holy Week services with Palm Sunday Mass in St. Peter's Square, stressing humility and remembering the dead in the Germanwings crash. At the end of Mass outside St. Peter's Basilica for some 70,000 faithful, Francis prayed for those who died in Tuesday's crash in the French Alps, noting there was a group of German schoolchildren aboard the aircraft. The disaster killed 150 people, including the

co-pilot who investigators say deliberately slammed the plane into the mountain.

Francis clutched a palm frond during the traditional procession at the service's start. In keeping with the simple tone of his two-year-old papacy, Francis leaned on a plain wooden pastoral staff instead of a traditionally more ornate one as he stood under a red canopy on the basilica steps.

He wore bright red vestments to recall Jesus'



Pope Francis greets faithful after celebrating a Palm Sunday Mass in St. Peter's Square, at the Vatican, Sunday, March 29, 2015. Pope Francis has walked solemnly through St. Peter's Square in a Palm Sunday procession to usher in Holy Week ahead of Easter. Francis clutched a palm frond for the religious service, celebrated outside St. Peter's Basilica.

(AP Photo/Riccardo De Luca)

death by crucifixion. In his homily, Francis stressed humility, another quality that has marked his papal style.

He hailed those who quietly ignore their own needs to serve others, and paid tribute to Christians who endure with dignity humiliation, discrimination and even persecution for their faith. □

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Nigerians vote Sunday despite violence, technical hitches

MICHELLE FAUL

SHEHU SAULAWA

Associated Press

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP) —

Boko Haram fighters attacked poll stations in northeast Nigeria and a governor demanded elections be canceled in an oil-rich southern state Sunday as the count started for a presidential election too close to call.

Two electoral workers were killed Saturday in Boko Haram's campaign to disrupt the elections, chairman Attahiru Jega of the Independent National Electoral Commission told reporters.

Voting continued in certain areas on Sunday after technical glitches with new biometric card readers prevented some people from casting ballots on Saturday.

The high-stakes contest to govern Africa's richest and most populous nation has

come down to a critically close contest between President Goodluck Jonathan, a 57-year-old Christian from the south, and former military dictator Muhammadu Buhari, 72, from the predominantly Muslim north.

Results are expected by late Monday. If there is no clear winner, a runoff must be held.

Suspected Boko Haram extremists attacked polling stations and destroyed election material in two northeastern towns Sunday, then advanced on Bauchi city, according to fleeing residents.

Soldiers engaged them in heavy gunfire, and a jet fighter patrolled skies above the city, they said. Police spokesman Haruna Muhammad said security forces had halted the convoy of 10 vehicles holding "unidentified gunmen" at Dindima village, 10 kilome-



Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan casts his ballot, in Otuoke, Nigeria.

(AP Photo/Nigeria State House)

ters (6 miles) from Bauchi. But gunshots erupted in Bauchi before nightfall Sunday, and authorities declared a curfew.

Muhammad said the gun-

men attacked polling stations in Kirfi and Alkaleri towns earlier in the day. Boko Haram extremists killed at least 41 people, including a legislator, and

scared hundreds of people from polling stations in three states in the northeast on Saturday.

Voters also are electing 360 legislators to the House of Assembly, where the opposition currently has a slight edge over Jonathan's party. Voting for 13 constituencies was postponed until April because of shortages of ballot papers, electoral officials said.

Nigeria's political landscape was transformed two years ago when the main opposition parties formed a coalition and for the first time united behind one candidate, Buhari. Dozens of legislators defected from Jonathan's party, including Rivers State Gov. Rotimi Amaechi. □

3 West African countries boost fight to end Ebola

B. DIALLO

J. LAYLEH

Associated Press

CONAKRY, Guinea (AP) —

The West African countries hit hardest by Ebola are ramping up efforts to eradicate the deadly disease using lockdowns, restrictions on burials and a warning to survivors about the potential dangers of unprotected sex.

The region's Ebola outbreak has killed more than 10,000 people since cases were first recorded more than a year ago, with most of the dead coming from Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia.

Sierra Leone, which has seen the most cases, imposed a three-day lock-

down that officials hoped would help the country get "total control" over Ebola. The lockdown was expected to conclude on Sunday. Neighboring Guinea could soon be holding its own lockdowns after President Alpha Conde announced that emergency steps would be "reinforced" for a 45-day period in five districts in the west of the country.

All burials in the affected areas will need to be secured by Red Cross or security forces, and all dead bodies will be systematically tested, Conde said in an address on state television Saturday night. Mourning ceremonies will be restricted to close family. □



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Brazilian inmates get therapy with hallucinogenic tea

SIMON ROMERO

© 2015 New York Times

JI-PARANÁ, Brazil - As the night sky enveloped this outpost in Brazil's Amazon basin, the ceremony at the open-air temple began simply enough.

Dozens of adults and children, all clad in white, stood in a line. A holy man handed each a cup of ayahuasca, a muddy-looking hallucinogenic brew. They gulped it down; some vomited. Hymns were sung. More ayahuasca was consumed. By midnight, the congregants seemed strangely energized. Then the dancing began.

Such rituals are a fixture across the Amazon, where ayahuasca has been consumed for centuries, and entire religions have co-

alesced around the psychedelic concoction. But the ceremony one night this month was different: Among those imbibing from the holy man's decanter were prison inmates, convicted of crimes such as murder, kidnapping and rape. "I'm finally realizing I was on the wrong path in this life," said Celmiro de Almeida, 36, who is serving a sentence for homicide at a prison four hours away on a road that winds through the jungle. "Each experience helps me communicate with my victim to beg for forgiveness," said de Almeida, who has taken ayahuasca nearly 20 times at the sanctuary here.

The provision of a hallucinogen to inmates on short furloughs in the middle of



Prisoners on short furloughs dance with other congregants at a temple after consuming ayahuasca, a psychedelic drink used in various religions, in Ji-Parana, Brazil, March 20, 2015. The provision of ayahuasca to inmates reflects a quest to ease pressure on Brazil's prison system.

(Lalo de Almeida/The New York Times)

the rain forest reflects a continuing quest for ways to ease pressure on Brazil's prison system. The country's inmate population has doubled since the start of the century to more than 550,000, straining under-funded prisons rife with human rights violations and violent uprisings complete with beheadings.

One of the bloodiest prison revolts in recent decades took place in the nearby city of Pôrto Velho, Brazil, in 2002, when at least 27 inmates were killed at the Urso Branco prison. Around the same time, Acuda, a pioneering prisoners' rights group in Pôrto Velho, began offering inmates therapy sessions in yoga, meditation and Reiki, a healing ritual directing energy from the practitioner's hands to a patient's body.

Two years ago, the volunteer therapists at Acuda had a new idea: Why not give the inmates ayahuasca, as well? The Amazonian brew, which is generally made by blending and boiling a vine (Banisteriop-

sis caapi) with a leaf (Psychotria viridis), is growing in popularity in Brazil, the United States and other countries.

Acuda had trouble finding a place where the inmates could drink ayahuasca, but they were finally accepted by an offshoot here of Santo Daime, a Brazilian religion founded in the 1930s that blends Catholicism, African traditions and the trance communications with spirits popularized in the 19th century by a Frenchman known as Allan Kardec. "Many people in Brazil believe that inmates must suffer, enduring hunger and depravity," said Euza Beloti, 40, a psychologist with Acuda. "This thinking bolsters a system where prisoners return to society more violent than when they entered prison." At Acuda, she said, "we simply see inmates as human beings with the capacity to change."

Beloti and other therapists test aspects of this philosophy at a compound in a sprawling prison complex

in Pôrto Velho. Judges and wardens allow about 10 inmates from maximum-security prisons in the city to live in the Acuda building, a former army installation. Dozens of other prisoners from surrounding penitentiaries attend Acuda's therapy sessions each day.

Inside the compound, the inmates practice meditation. They perform ayurvedic massage on one another. They learn skills like motorcycle maintenance. A furniture workshop gives them access to tools like saws, hammers and drills. And they tend a garden, growing vegetables and the plants used to make ayahuasca. Treating inmates with psychedelic drugs anywhere is thought to be rare. In one short-lived experiment in the United States in the early 1960s, researchers from Harvard University under the direction of the psychologist Timothy Leary gave psilocybin, a drug derived from psychoactive mushrooms, to inmates at a prison in Concord, Massachusetts. □

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LOCAL Aruba TODAY

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EAGLE BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very nice group of guests whom are loyal visitors of Aruba as Goodwill Ambassadors at their home away from home! The honorees were Mr. Richard and Mrs. Gail Farrell Friedlander of Clifton



Park, New York, Mr. Henry and Mrs. Joan Sullivan of Central Valley, New York, Mr. Denise and Mrs. Carolyn Miller of Finksburg, Maryland, and Mr. Patrick and Mrs. Kimberly Gaddes of Prior Lake, Minnesota. The symbolic honorary titles are presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism,

Transportation, Primary Sector and Culture. Mr. O. Oduber as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba between 20-34 years consecutive.

The Certificate was presented by Ms. Darline S. de Cuba representing Aruba Tourism Authority in presence of Ms. Gloria Defoe activities coordinator at Divi Village.

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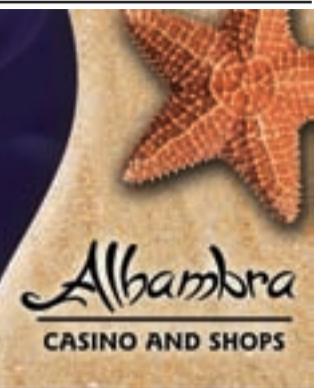


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guests can begin their day with a delicious cappuccino or stop by to enjoy casual lunch & dinner and join Bugaloe for live music and entertainment at night. Monday nights especially tend to get a bit crazier than usual with Crazy Fish Monday! Whether you

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The combination of location, cool vibes, live music 4

nights a week, happy hour entertainment, and the interaction between staff and guests has not gone unnoticed. Both Endless Vacation and Cruiseline Magazine named Bugaloe as a top 10 best beach bars in the Caribbean. In the words of The Huffington Post:

"Bugaloe is a sexy locale right on the water with that true sense-of-place feel". Reservations are not necessary- just follow your tapping feet down to the music where smiles and fun await you! □



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Sidebar changes Aruba's restaurant scene with its flavorful gourmet burgers

ORANJESTAD - Take a burger of one hundred percent prime Angus beef, add to that the freshest possible extras and tastiest sauces and voila: here is your gourmet burger. Sidebar, a newly opened, great restaurant in the Renaissance Marketplace in downtown Oranjestad, knows how to tease your taste buds with the best burgers imaginable.

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Zforall, Sarasota, FL-USA
TripAdvisor - January 5th, 2015

Sidebar's signature burgers have been named The Sidebar, The Afterburner, The Goliath, The Texan, The Chaser, The Primal and The Italian Job and we are sure that everyone will be able to find a burger that calls out to them. The burgers come with brie cheese, prosciutto, Cheddar cheese, zucchini, sliced steak, Bourbon bbq sauce, dripping gravy and much more, depending on your order. The best thing is that these gourmet beauties cost less than \$ 15.00, so lunch or an evening out won't break the bank.

Feel love for Sidebar's burgers; they are bursting with taste—try them all and find your personal favorite. Come on down to Sidebar and rock your Wildest West with a fabulously tasty burger that packs a punch with its layers of flavor. And if you are not in a burger mood, then Sidebar has a wonderfully varied menu of all kinds of other options, ranging from vegetarian mushrooms and spinach to a zucchini cutlet to lovely salads, homemade soups, pastas and fish dishes.

Wash your lunch or dinner down with a premium, aged Bourbon or try the ice-cold beers on tap to slake your thirst. You can choose between Heineken, Balashi, Chill, Stella Artois, Miller Light or Presidente. Come inside, at the bar or sit outside on the terrace; at Sidebar there will always be a place for you.



Picture: "THE TEXAN" GOURMET BURGER

Moreno Family Honored at the Occidental Grand Aruba

PALM BEACH - The Occidental Grand Aruba just held a special ceremony to recognize Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Moreno, two longtime and frequent visitors. Since 2004 Bruce, a former Chicago councilperson and now a U.S. Congressional and state political campaign consultant, and Pam, an international pharmaceutical executive, have annually returned to Palm Beach for 14-days of vacation,



originally traveling from Philadelphia and more recently from their new home in Zurich, Switzerland. GM Jesus Cardoso presented, on behalf of the Mr. O.

Oduber, Aruba Minister of Tourism, Transportation, Primary Sector and Culture, a personal certification of their Distinguished Visitor status and thanked them

for contributing to the Aruba economy and culture by frequenting the Caribbean island. Also attending the ceremony were Darline S. de Cuba of the

Aruba tourism Authority, and executives of The Occidental Grand including Sandra Steba, Royal Club Manager, and many of the Moreno's local friends. □



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PALM BEACH - In this photo the CEO & CFO Wayne & Cheryl McAlarney treats their corporate team and some of their top achievers to a night of dinner & cocktails at the Marriott's Simply Fish. From left to right: Aaron Horne & founding therapist Tara Horne, Pat Gaddes & Vice President Sales & Field Development Kimberly Gaddes, Alex Gingiloski & President Bobbie Gingiloski, Vice President Nancy Kruse, CEO Cheryl McAlarney CFO Wayne McAlarney, President of Corporate Operations Kaitlyn McAlarney, First Founding Therapist East Coast Deborah Emmons, and

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-Photograph provided by Deborah Emmons Photography. □

SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

Duke Back In Final Four After 66-52 Win Over Gonzaga

S. HAWKINS

Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — A special group of freshmen is taking Duke and Coach K back to the NCAA Final Four.

The Blue Devils and their trio of freshmen starters are going to their 16th Final Four, a record-matching 12th for coach Mike Krzyzewski, after a 66-52 win Sunday in the South Regional over Gonzaga.

Justise Winslow, the freshman playing home in Houston, had 16 points, including a big 3-pointer in the closing minutes. Matt Jones had also had 16 points while freshman Tyus Jones had 15 points, while Jahlil Okafor nine points and eight rebounds.

Duke (33-4), the region's No. 1 seed, is going to Indianapolis to play Michigan State in the Final Four. The other national semifinal game Saturday matches undefeated Kentucky and Wisconsin. Krzyzewski is going to the Final Four for the 12th time, matching UCLA's John Wooden for the most by a head coach and five more than anyone else.

These young Blue Devils responded with nine straight points and never trailed again. They had stretched it to 60-51 when Winslow made a 3-pointer from the left wing with 2:28 left. □



Duke's Justise Winslow (12) goes up for a shot as Gonzaga guard Kyle Dranginis (3) looks on during the second half of a college basketball regional final game in the NCAA Tournament Sunday, March 29, 2015, in Houston. The Blue Devils are going to their 16th Final Four after a 66-52 win Sunday in the South Regional over Gonzaga.

(AP Photo/Charlie Riedel)

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Nets keep up playoff push, beat Lakers for 3rd straight win

BRIAN MAHONEY
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) - Brook Lopez had 30 points and 11 rebounds, and the Brooklyn Nets kept up their playoff push by beating the Los Angeles Lakers 107-99 on Sunday for their third straight victory.

Joe Johnson added 18 points, eight rebounds and seven assists for the Nets, who entered play a half-

game behind Boston for eighth place in the Eastern Conference. The Celtics hosted the Los Angeles Clippers later Sunday. Brooklyn won for the fifth time in six games to give itself a chance at a third straight postseason berth after an underwhelming first half of the season. The schedule is favorable for a late-season run, with the Nets two games into a

stretch that sees them play seven of nine at home - with another just across the river at the league-worst Knicks. However, they are still just 14-20 at Barclays Center, even with their improved play. Reserve Jordan Hill had 22 points and 16 rebounds for the Lakers, who played without Jeremy Lin and Carlos Boozer because of upper respiratory infec-



Brooklyn Nets center Brook Lopez (11) and guard Deron Williams (8) fight for a rebound against Los Angeles Lakers guard Jordan Clarkson (6) during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, March 29, 2015, at New York. The Nets won 107-99.

(AP Photo/Mary Altaffer)

tions, while Ed Davis was rested with Hill returning from a three-game absence.

Lopez extended his best stretch of the season by making 13 of 22 shots. He had averaged 28.6 points over the previous five games.

Coming off their 106-98 victory over Cleveland on Friday, the Nets started quickly, with Lopez and Deron Williams combining to outscore the Lakers in the first quarter in helping Brooklyn to a 30-19 lead. The Nets made 73 percent

of their 2-point shots in the first half, though were only 3 of 17 on 3s in taking a 61-50 lead.

Los Angeles, which never led, cut it to 96-93 with under 4 minutes to play before a dunk by Lopez and 3-pointer by Johnson pushed the lead back to eight.

Rookie Markel Brown scored a season-high 17 points for the Nets, while Williams overcame an illness that sidelined him from practice Saturday to finish with 13 points and nine assists. □



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Denny Hamlin races to 25th Cup win, 5th at Martinsville

HANK KURZ Jr.
AP Sports Writer

MARTINSVILLE, Va. (AP) — Denny Hamlin just needed a visit to Martinsville Speedway to get his racing team back on track.

Now, with his spot in NASCAR's Chase for the championship virtually assured, they can work to make it better.

Hamlin passed teammate Matt Kenseth for the lead with 28 laps to go Sunday and ended Toyota's 32-race winless streak in the NASCAR Sprint Cup race at Martinsville Speedway. It was his fifth victory on NASCAR's oldest, smallest circuit.

"We had a very fast car, but obviously some pit road issues, but we overcame it," Hamlin said after his 25th career victory, which was helped along by a serious blunder that took four-time champion Jeff Gordon out of contention late.

Hamlin's pit crew, unlike



Denny Hamlin does a burnout after winning the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race at Martinsville Speedway in Martinsville, Va., Sunday, March 29, 2015.

(AP Photo/Don Petersen)

Gordon, made their mistake early enough in the race to recover. Before the event was 200 laps old, Hamlin was penalized when his crew failed to control a tire on pit road. It dropped him from the lead to 22nd place.

He was back in the top 10 by the midpoint, and stalking the leaders shortly thereafter.

"The last 60, 70 laps played out how they needed to play out for us to win today," Hamlin said.

Hamlin also held off a five-

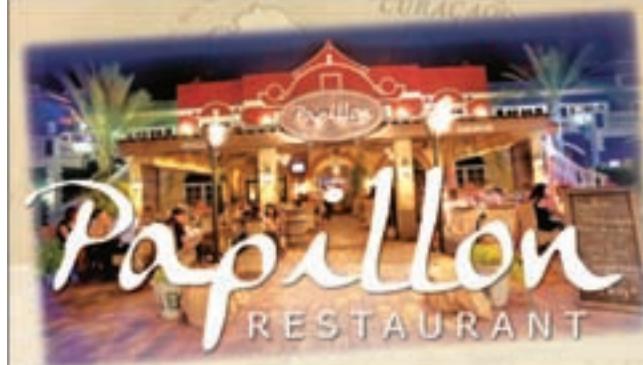
lap, bumper-to-tail challenge from Brad Keselowski at the finish. There was some bumping and nudging, and a big wiggle for Hamlin in the final fourth turn, but Keselowski never caused him to spin.

"We just weren't going

to be denied today, and hats off to Brad," he said, thanking Keselowski for not wrecking him.

"I did everything I could other than wreck him," Keselowski said. Keselowski was second, followed by Joey Logano, Kenseth and David Ragan, giving Joe Gibbs Racing three cars in the top five. The jolt was especially appreciated in a week when the team announced that President J.D. Gibbs is being treated for a "symptoms impacting areas of brain function," an issue that has left doctors with very few answers thus far. It was J.D. Gibbs who discovered Hamlin on a North Carolina short track, and Joe Gibbs thought of that near the end.

"For me it was emotional and thinking about J.D. and all that he means to our team, so it was a big week for us, but a great finish to a story there," Gibbs said. □



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Serena Williams beats 15-year-old Bellis 6-1, 6-1 in Miami



Serena Williams returns the ball to CiCi Bellis at the Miami Open tennis tournament in Key Biscayne, Fla., Sunday, March 29, 2015. Williams needed only 41 minutes to beat 15-year-old Bellis 6-1, 6-1 in the third round of the Miami Open.

(AP Photo/J Pat Carter)

STEVEN WINE
AP Sports Writer

KEY BISCAYNE, Fla. (AP)

— Seven-time champion Serena Williams needed only 41 minutes to beat 15-year-old American CiCi Bellis 6-1, 6-1 on Sunday in the third round of the Miami Open.

Bellis made headlines by winning a match at last year's U.S. Open, but she couldn't stay with

the world's No. 1 player. Williams won 51 of the 65 points and lost only two points in seven service games.

"It wasn't like, 'Oh, I'm so happy to win this match,'" Williams said. "It was tough. She's young and her being an American, you want to see people like her do well."

Williams' opponent in the round of 16 will be

2006 champion Svetlana Kuznetsova, seeded No. 24. She beat No. 13 Angelique Kerber 6-3, 3-6, 6-3.

Williams withdrew before the semifinals at Indian Wells last week, citing an ailing right knee, but hardly had to run against Bellis. Williams hit 13 winners to only one by the teenager, who is the world's top-ranked junior and still an amateur.

"I was pretty nervous," Bellis said. "I mean, she's No. 1 in the world and like the best of all time for a reason. I think it was just a really good experience for me for the future and I'm glad I got to do it, but she's a lot better than me for right now."

On the men's side, Andy Murray's 499th career victory put him in the fourth round. The No. 3-seeded Murray beat Santiago Giraldo 6-3, 6-4 on Sunday, and one more win will give him a milestone achieved by 45 other men in the Open era.

"It's nice, because when you see the list of the players that have won that many matches, there isn't loads," he said. "I obviously want to try and win more, and hopefully still have quite a few years ahead of me left to add to that number."

Eight active men have at least 500 wins. Murray's career record is 499-155, and he'll next face No. 15-seeded Kevin Anderson. No. 3 Simona Halep, who won Indian Wells a week ago, reached the women's

fourth round by beating No. 30 Camila Giorgi 6-4, 7-5.

Two-time champion Victoria Azarenka lost to No. 15 Flavia Pennetta 7-6 (5), 7-6 (6). Azarenka, mounting a comeback from injuries, was playing at Key Biscayne for the first time since 2012. In other men's play, American Jack Sock lost to Dominic Thiem 6-4, 6-3.

Murray, who won the tournament in 2009 and 2013, is seeking his first title this year. Against Giraldo, Murray lost only four points on his first serve and was broken just once — the first time he served for the match.

"Giraldo came out and started swinging a bit toward the end of the match and made it a little bit tricky," Murray said, "but I thought for the most part I played very well."

Giraldo, seeded No. 27, fell to 1-22 against top-10 opponents.

Anderson hit 12 aces and beat No. 24 Leonardo Mayer 6-4, 6-4. A South African, Anderson lives an hour north of Key Biscayne; Murray, a Scot, has a home in Miami.

That makes their match an all-Florida affair of sorts.

"Kevin obviously is used to these conditions here," Murray said. "He obviously plays and practices in this weather a lot, so I won't have as much of an advantage against him as maybe some of the guys." □

Nadal loses to Verdasco in 3rd round of Miami Open

STEVEN WINE
AP Sports Writer

KEY BISCAYNE, Fla. (AP)

— Rafael Nadal was eliminated Sunday in the third round of the Miami Open by fellow Spaniard Fernando Verdasco, 6-4, 2-6, 6-3.

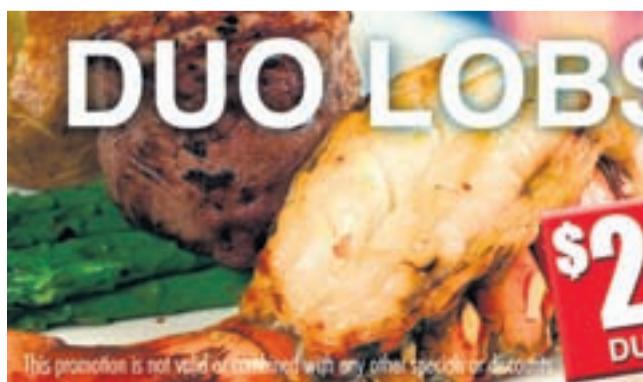
Nadal, who was seeded second, has never won the tournament in 11 appearances. It's the only event he hasn't won in so many attempts.

Verdasco, seeded 29th, lost the first 13 times he

played Nadal but has now beaten him twice in a row. The other victory came in 2012 in Madrid.

Nadal converted only three of 12 break-point chances and committed 40 unforced errors, with just

18 winners. The tournament was already without Roger Federer, who skipped the event. Four-time champion Novak Djokovic and two-time champion Andy Murray are now heavy favorites to make the final. □



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European Roundup:

Germany, Portugal boost Euro 2016 qualifying hopes

BERLIN (AP) — Traditional heavyweights Germany and Portugal earned important wins to boost their hopes of qualifying for the 2016 European Champi-

a point of leader Poland, which was held to a 1-1 draw by Ireland.

Ireland substitute Shane Long scored in injury time in Dublin, canceling out

Group F, while Greece showed signs of improvement in a 0-0 draw against Hungary.

Claudiu Keseru's 21st-minute goal was enough

bon as Portugal went top of the group.

Matic equalized in the 61st after Carvalho's early headed goal, but Coentrao got the winner three minutes later.

Cristiano Ronaldo made little impact apart from a powerful swerving shot on the half-hour which Vladimir Stojkovic just managed

to push wide.

Portugal's third straight win under Fernando Santos, who took charge after the team lost its opening qualifier against Albania, gave it nine points from four games.

It is two points ahead of second-place Denmark, which has a game in hand. □



Germany's Thomas Muller, right, fights for the ball with Georgia's Solomon Kverkvelia during the Euro 2016 qualifying match between Germany and Georgia, in Tbilisi, Georgia, Sunday, March 29, 2015.

(AP Photo/Shakh Aivazov)

onship on Sunday, while Romania and Northern Ireland hold a big edge in their group after victories.

Marco Reus and Thomas Mueller scored late in the first half to give Germany a 2-0 win over Georgia in Tbilisi, and goals from Ricardo Carvalho and Fabio Coentrao gave Portugal a 2-1 win over Serbia in Lisbon to move top of Group I.

Romania and Northern Ireland are way ahead of their Group F rivals after home wins over the Faeroe Islands and Finland, respectively.

The top two finishers from each of the nine groups qualify automatically. The best third-place team also qualifies, and eight more teams can advance through playoffs.

Here is a look at the three groups in action on Sunday:

GROUP D

World Cup champion Germany got its qualifying campaign back on track with its first away win in Group D and moved within

Slawomir Peszko's 26th-minute strike to leave the group finely poised after five rounds.

Unbeaten Poland leads with 11 points, followed by Scotland — which routed tiny Gibraltar 6-1 — and Germany both on 10, while Ireland maintains slim hopes of emerging from the group with eight points. In Tbilisi, Reus scored in the 39th minute when he was free to scoop the ball inside the near post and Mueller sealed the result five minutes later with his fifth goal in qualifying. Georgia was pegged back for long periods in Kakhaber Tskhadadze's first game as coach.

In Glasgow, Lee Casciaro scored Gibraltar's first ever goal in a competitive match to cancel out Shaun Maloney's 18th-minute penalty, but the Scots answered with five unanswered goals.

GROUP F

Romania and Northern Ireland tightened their grip on the top two places in

for Romania to beat the Faeroe Islands 1-0, while Northern Ireland moved a step closer to appearing in a first major tournament since 1986 by beating Finland 2-1.

At the halfway stage, Romania leads with 13 points, one ahead of Northern Ireland, with Hungary following on eight points.

Finland has four points, the Faeroe Islands three, while Greece, last with two, looks increasingly likely to miss the 2016 tournament.

Playing under new coach Segio Markarian, Greece produced a better defensive display than in recent games but failed to impress in attack. It was Hungary that had the best chances late in the game.

Kyle Lafferty scored both of Northern Ireland's goals in the first half at Windsor Park, taking the striker's tally in qualifying to five goals.

GROUP I

A spectacular goal from an overhead kick by Nemanja Matic wasn't enough to earn Serbia a point in Lis-

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FRI 4:20 | 6:30 | 8:40 | 10:50
SAT 2:10 | 4:20 | 6:30 | 8:40 | 10:50
SUN & HOL 2:10 | 4:20 | 6:30 | 8:40

3D VERSION SPANISH
MON-FRI 5:10 | 7:10
SAT, SUN & HOL 3:00 | 5:10
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-THURS 5:10 | 7:20
FRI 5:10 | 7:20 | 9:30
SAT 3:00 | 5:10 | 7:20 | 9:30
SUN & HOL 3:00 | 5:10 | 7:20

SHAILENE WOODLEY | ANSEL ELGORT
THE DIVERGENT SERIES: INSURGENT
3D VERSION
MON-THURS 4:25 | 9:30
FRI, SAT 4:25 | 9:30 | 12:05
SUN & HOL 4:25 | 9:30

3D VERSION
MON-THURS 6:55 | 9:00
FRI 6:55 | 9:00 | 11:35
SAT 1:55 | 6:55 | 9:00 | 11:35
SUN & HOL 1:55 | 6:55 | 9:00

SEAN PENN | IDRIS ELBA
THE GUNMAN
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-THURS 7:20 | 9:40
FRI 7:20 | 9:40 | 12:00
SAT 7:20 | 9:40 | 12:00
SUN & HOL 7:20 | 9:40

LILY JAMES | CATE BLANCHETT
CINDERELLA
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-THURS 4:00 | 5:30 | 6:30 | 8:00
FRI 4:00 | 5:30 | 6:30 | 8:00 | 10:30
SAT 4:00 | 5:30 | 6:30 | 8:00 | 10:30
SUN & HOL 3:00 | 4:00 | 5:30 | 6:30 | 8:00

LIAM NEESON | ED HARRIS
RUN ALL NIGHT
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-THURS 4:35 | 7:00 | 9:25
FRI 4:35 | 7:00 | 9:25 | 11:50
SAT 2:10 | 4:35 | 7:00 | 9:25 | 11:50
SUN & HOL 2:10 | 4:35 | 7:00 | 9:25

WILL SMITH | MARGOT ROBBIE
FOCUS
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-THURS 4:50 | 7:10 | 9:30
FRI 4:50 | 7:10 | 9:30 | 11:50
SAT 2:30 | 4:50 | 7:10 | 9:30 | 11:50
SUN & HOL 2:30 | 4:50 | 7:10 | 9:30

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Walker downs Spieth by 4 strokes at hometown Texas Open

TIM PRICE

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Jimmy Walker made himself right at home on the Texas Open leaderboard.

Walker won his hometown event Sunday to become the first two-time winner this season on the PGA Tour, beating fellow Texan Jordan Spieth by four strokes.

"(Spieth) really made me fight hard," Walker said. "He kept hitting it close, and I had to keep making putts."

Walker made birdie putts of 15 feet at No. 16 and 17 feet at the 17th in a 2-under 70 that left him at 11-under 277 at TPC San Antonio, a 35-minute drive from his home.

The 36-year-old former Baylor player won the Sony Open in Hawaii by nine shots in January and has a tour-best five victories in the past two seasons.

"Everybody says it's hard to win at home," Walker said, "(but) it's hard to win any week — home, away, out of the country, it's hard. So I feel good."

Spieth also finished with a 70, making four late birdies in a row. The 21-year-old Dallas player was coming off a playoff victory two



Jimmy Walker hits from the 10th tee during the Valero Texas Open golf tournament in San Antonio. Walker won his hometown event Sunday to become the first two-time winner this season on the PGA Tour.

(AP Photo/Darren Abate)

weeks ago at Innisbrook. "It actually looked like I had a chance," said Spieth, seven shots back with eight to play. "I didn't think

that would be possible. You're never out of it in this game, but Jimmy shut that down pretty quickly with his made putts."

Walker and Spieth will move to career highs in the world ranking, with Spieth going from sixth to fourth and Walker from

13th to 10th.

"That's cool," Spieth said. "But I'm not pinching myself, because there are three guys ahead."

FedEx Cup champion Billy Horschel was third at 4 under after a 71.

Daniel Summerhays, second last year behind Steven Bowditch, tied for fourth with Chesson Hadley at 3 under. Summerhays closed with a 69, and Hadley had a 71.

Doral winner Dustin Johnson shot his second straight 68 to match Ryan Palmer at 2 under. Palmer also had a 68.

"With the same wind the last three days it helped to figure out the course, and I played well," Johnson said, noting steady wind at past 20 mph much of this week. "I just played a couple of holes bad. Other than that, I played a lot of good golf in between and if I played those other holes better it's a whole different tournament."

Phil Mickelson, looking for some momentum heading to the Masters, closed with a 76 to drop into a tie for 30th at 4 over.

Ten players finished under par, with the Oaks Course playing the toughest on the PGA Tour this season with a 74.581 stroke average — more than two shots over par. The previous high was PGA National's Champion course at 1.832 over par for the Honda Classic.

Marc Warren and Harris English failed to crack the top 50 in the world ranking, which would have given them spots in the Masters. Warren, 52nd, needed to finish ahead of Brendan Todd to get in, but closed with a 70 to finish 35th. English, 53rd, needed at least a top 10. His final-round 72 only got him to 30th. □

Richie Ramsay wins Trophee Hassan II by 1 shot

AGADIR, Morocco (AP) — Richie Ramsay of Scotland shot a 3-under 69 Sunday to win the Trophee Hassan II by one shot ahead of Frenchman Romain Wattel and claim his third European Tour title.

Ramsay wasted a three-shot lead before recovering with three straight birdies from the 12th hole at the Golf du Palais Royal to finish with a 10-under 278 total.

Wattel birdied the 17th but

settled for par on 18 for a 70.

After a bright opening spell that saw him birdie four holes in a row, Ramsay dropped four shots in the space of two holes before sealing his first win of the season, having previously missed four cuts out of five.

"I stood over the putt on the 12th hole and I just thought my putter feels absolutely great," said the 31-year-old Ramsay. "I

thought 'Just go for it, this is your time'. Pretty much took it by the scruff of the neck the next two holes and the 7-iron on the last is probably one of the best shots I've ever hit in terms of visualization and execution, it was just perfect."

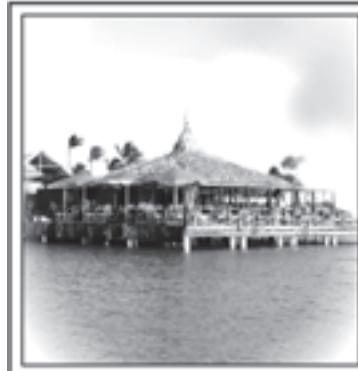
Six players shared third place on 8 under, including South African George Coetzee, who needed to win in order to secure a place at the Masters.

Former Ryder Cup Cap-

tain Jose Maria Olazabal finished with a 66 to climb into a tie for ninth and secure his 150th top-10 finish on the European Tour.

"I didn't expect this earlier in the week," said the two-time Augusta winner.

"I saw the leaderboard on 18 and knew I had a putt to lead in the clubhouse. It's nice to have a round like this and a tournament like this for confidence, but I know how tough Augusta is these days." □



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Short Circuits:

Messaging Apps Offer to Do It All, for More Money

MOLLY WOOD

© 2015 New York Times

Messaging apps do a lot more these days than send messages.

Facebook's Messenger app is the perfect example. Last week, the company added the ability to let Messengers users send and receive money. And on Wednesday, the company announced that users of its stand-alone Messenger app would be able to download new apps that add extra features.

Right now, those new features are mainly limited to more advanced messages, like text messages that turn into songs or one that lets you animate selfie photos. But the company announced tools for developers to build in even more capabilities, plus partnerships with stores, so that users can track online purchases and packages in Messenger.

Such moves are part of a trend toward messaging apps becoming do-it-all services. The model, in many ways, comes from the messaging giants popular in China and Japan: Tencent's WeChat (known as Weixin in China), and Line, which became a

powerful alternative to text messaging after the devastating Tohoku earthquake of 2011.

"Facebook or these messenger apps, they're wondering, what's their future?" said Brian Blau, a research director at the technology research firm Gartner. "How are they going to engage? Are they going to risk having all their users in one app basket? Wouldn't it be better if they were more of a platform and could have users in all sorts of areas and have businesses come to rely on them?"

For users, beefier and more powerful messaging apps could be a logical extension of the activities they're already doing - or the apps could quickly overwhelm. It all depends on execution, and WeChat and Line appear to be getting it right.

WeChat, which has some 500 million users worldwide, lets users make voice and video calls, communicate with groups of up to 500 people and send and receive money. But the app also includes a complete payments platform, like Apple Pay or the coming Samsung Pay, that lets people check out in stores

and restaurants using the app, and also shop online. And because WeChat is

and use the app as a digital key, schedule doctor's appointments and track

and has licensed TV and movies to stream within the app.

Similarly, Line handles messaging and voice, video games, mobile payments, TV shows and movie studios, ultrapopular stickers (that its users can create and sell on the platform), a taxi-calling service that rivals Uber and even a physical store in Tokyo.

In the United States, messaging apps are moving slightly more slowly. Facebook Messenger is getting closer, with the new payments service and third-party app announcements. You can make voice calls with the app over both Wi-Fi or a cellular data connection - although there's no video calling and its sticker collection left a lot to be desired, at least for now.

The new apps introduced by Facebook this week include several sticker apps, which have proved popular in WeChat and Line. Users can also download a weather app from the Weather Channel and will have the ability to send video messages with special effects attached.

Continued on Page 27



Messaging apps with a multitude of features, such as mobile payment portals and games, can walk a fine line between convenient and overwhelming.

(Minh Uong/The New York Times)

open to integration with all kinds of other apps, Tencent has encouraged developers to create the ability to build many other functions within the app. Now you can use WeChat to check into hotel rooms

prescriptions, buy train tickets, pay school tuition fees and order items for delivery. (The app Call a Chicken lets people order chicken dishes for delivery.)

Tencent has also created its own games for WeChat

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Wealth Matters:

As American Economy Rises, So Do Dream Homes

PAUL SULLIVAN

© 2015 New York Times

Scott Seltzer's beach house in Sagaponack, New York, would have been finished in half the time, if not for the screening room. That one room took two years, but Seltzer, who works in finance, has no regrets.

"I lived in small apartments my whole life," said Seltzer, 52, who grew up in Queens and now lives in Manhattan. "When we were building this house, I said I'd like a screening room. I could watch movies or the news. Then I thought, let's make this special."

It was that word "special" that doubled the project's time for one room in his 8,000-square-foot home, taking more time to finish than the spa with the Turkish marble floors or the wine cellar.

"What most people call screening rooms are glorified dens, with a big television and leather chairs, maybe some stadium seating," he said. "I wanted mine to have a vision. I feel it's one of the most impressive screening rooms in the country."

The screening room, which is oval, has a hand-painted ceiling that mixes silver and gold leaf with Swarovski crystals.

He declined to say how much the entire project cost, but said he spent \$350,000 on the screening room alone. The house

was valued for tax purposes at \$3 million last year, though the actual value is certainly higher when the renovations and land are factored in.

After faltering slightly,

homes this year.

The idea of building a dream home can captivate many people's imaginations. It allows them to create spaces like screening rooms that are unique-

who worked with Seltzer on his home. "It's about scale and proportion. Until they see it all assembled, they can be surprised."

The toughest spaces are not screening rooms, he

too much furniture in the great room, people don't allow enough space for a kitchen to be functional. "They don't know how many inches they need to walk past something," Inman said.

To minimize those gaffes that detract from a dream home, many people with means hire a team to help them, such as architects, contractors, craftsmen and landscapers. Finding them is not easy. One option is the famous architect route, picking a Richard Meier or Robert A.M. Stern, the dean of the Yale University School of Architecture. But that is out of reach of all but the wealthiest people, and even those who can afford them need to want a house that matches the architect's style. Another option is to seek referrals from friends. John Patrick, founder of Above the Fold, a New York talent agency with a focus on home construction, is trying to create a gallery system where he will assemble teams of architects and contractors for people who want to build luxury homes.

"There is not a place for people to make a credible and insightful decision about an architect or interior designer," he said. "A budget doesn't dictate whether a building could be iconic. If someone has an intention, they can make it work." □



Scott Seltzer's recently-built dream house in Sagaponack, N.Y. After faltering slightly, luxury building is again booming in the traditionally high-end parts of the country, like South Florida and the Hamptons.

(Handout via The New York Times)

luxury building is again booming in the traditionally high-end parts of the country, like South Florida and the Hamptons, as the economy continues to show healthy signs, architects and designers say. But even people with more modest homes in mind are turning their desires into reality. A study to be released next week from Liberty Mutual said that 44 percent of Americans were planning to move or renovate their

ly theirs. There is, after all, only so much you can do with bedrooms and dining rooms.

But those grand plans do not always come off smoothly. There are reasons for that and blame to be shared among clients, architects and builders. "It's very hard for someone who is not trained to get all the subtle nuances of the houses right," said Campion Platt, an architect and interior designer,

said, but great rooms, those vast open spaces meant to be the convening spot of a home. "It has to do with the scale and placement of the furniture," he said.

But people make seemingly smaller mistakes that have larger ramifications. They skimp on lighting and tile, said Shane Inman, an interior designer who specializes in kitchens and baths.

And just as bad as having

Report: Citadel Securities said to close Apogee Dark Pool

ALEXANDRA STEVENSON

© 2015 New York Times

Citadel Securities is preparing to close its Apogee dark pool as it focuses on another so-called off-exchange trading platform. Citadel Securities employees have held discussions with clients in recent weeks to notify them about its intentions, according to someone close to the firm. Citadel Securities operates Apogee and Citadel Connect, two electronic market-making platforms called dark pools, which allow buyers and sellers to trade anonymously

outside of the public exchanges.

It has not set a date yet for the halt of trading on Apogee, but the move is part of a shift in resources and focus toward Citadel Connect, the person said. Run out of New York, Apogee accounts for less than 1 percent of Citadel Securities' business, the person said. Trading volumes are not publicly available. The move comes at a time when regulators are looking closely at dark pools and asking whether the businesses running these platforms have accurate-

ly disclosed information about how they work. In January, the Swiss bank UBS agreed to pay \$14.5 million to the Securities and Exchange Commission to settle accusations that it violated federal securities laws with its dark pool by creating an unlevel playing field for its customers. At the time, Andrew J. Ceresney, director of the SEC's enforcement division, said the agency would continue to focus on "policing the equity markets to ensure fairness and compliance."

Citadel Securities is owned

by the billionaire Kenneth C. Griffin, who also manages a \$25 billion hedge fund called Citadel that he started when he was 22 after successfully trading bonds from his Harvard dorm room.

In recent years, Citadel Securities has made a big push into electronic trading. The number of shares traded in its dark pools has increased as more institutional investors turned to its platforms.

From 2013 to 2014, Citadel Connect nearly tripled its volume, to 72 million shares traded each day, making

it a top platform for dark pool trading among institutional investors and overtaking trading in Apogee, according to a news release in February 2014.

"Citadel Connect is one of the leading sources of off-exchange liquidity and its rapid growth underscores our commitment to being the world's leading market maker by providing investors with the fastest, most cost-effective and reliable access to our deep and diverse liquidity," Jamil Nazarali, head of Citadel execution services, said in the statement. □

Look Before Leaping



THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

© 2015 New York Times

I can think of many good reasons to go ahead with the nuclear deal with Iran, and I can think of just as many reasons not to. So, if you're confused, let me see if I can confuse you even more.

The proposed deal to lift sanctions on Iran - in return for curbs on its bomb-making capabilities so that it would take at least a year for Tehran to make a weapon - has to be judged in its own right. I will be looking closely at the quality of the verification regime and the specificity of what happens if Iran cheats. But the deal also has to be judged in terms of how it fits with wider American strategic goals in the region, because a U.S.-Iran deal would be an earthquake that touches every corner of the Middle East. Not enough attention is being paid to the regional implications - particularly what happens if we strengthen Iran at a time when large parts of the Sunni Arab world are in meltdown.

The Obama team's best argument for doing this deal with Iran is that, in time, it could be "transformational." That is, the ending of sanctions could open Iran to the world and bring in enough fresh air - Iran has been deliberately isolated since 1979 by its ayatollahs and Revolutionary Guard Corps - to gradually move Iran from being a revolutionary state to a normal one, and one less inclined to threaten Israel. If one assumes that Iran already has the know-how and tools to build a nuclear weapon, changing the character of its regime is the only way it becomes less threatening.

The challenge to this argument, explains Karim Sadjadpour, a Middle East specialist at the Carnegie Endowment, is that while the Obama team wants to believe this deal could be "transformational," Iran's supreme leader, Ali Khamenei, "sees it as transactional" - Iran plugs its nose, does the deal, regains its strength and doubles-down on its long-standing revolutionary principles. But, then again, you never know. What starts out as transactional can end up being transformational in ways that no one can prevent or predict.

A second argument is that Iran is a real country and civilization, with competitive (if restricted) elections, educated women and a powerful military. Patching up the U.S.-Iran relationship could enable America to better manage and balance the Sunni Arab Taliban in Afghanistan, and counterbalance the Sunni jihadis, like those in the Islamic State, or ISIS, now con-

trolling chunks of Iraq and Syria. The United States has relied heavily on Saudi Arabia, ever since Iran's 1979 revolution, and while the Saudi ruling family and elites are aligned with America, there is a Saudi Wahhabi hard core that has funded the spread of the most puritanical, anti-pluralistic, anti-women form of Islam that has changed the character of Arab Islam and helped to foster mutations like Islamic State. There were no Iranians involved in 9/11. Then again, it was Iranian agents who made the most lethal improvised explosives in Iraq that killed many U.S. troops there. And it was Iran that encouraged its Iraqi Shiite allies to reject any extended U.S. military presence in Iraq and to also overplay their hand in stripping power from Iraqi Sunnis, which is what helped to produce the Islamic State counterreaction.

"In the fight against ISIS, Iran is both the arsonist and the fire brigade," added Sadjadpour. To Saudi Arabia, he added, the rise of the Islamic State is attributable to the repression of Sunnis in Syria and Iraq by Iran and its Shiite clients. To Tehran, the rise of the Islamic State is attributable to the financial and ideological support of Saudi Arabia and its Gulf allies. And they are both right, which is why America's interests lie not with either the Saudis or the Iranian ideologues winning, but rather with balancing the two against each other until they get exhausted enough to stop prosecuting their ancient Shiite-Sunni, Persian-Arab feud. Then again, if this nuclear deal with Iran is finalized, and sanctions lifted, much more Iranian oil will hit the global market, suppressing prices and benefiting global consumers. Then again, Iran would have billions of dollars more to spend on cyberwarfare, long-range ballistic missiles and projecting power across the Arab world, where its proxies already dominate four Arab capitals: Beirut, Baghdad, Damascus and Sanaa.

But, given the disarray in Yemen, Iraq and Syria, do we really care if Iran tries to play policeman there and is embroiled in endless struggles with Sunni militias? For 10 years, it was America that was overstretched across Iraq and Afghanistan. Now it will be Iran's turn. I feel terrible for the people who have to live in these places, and we certainly should use U.S. air power to help prevent the chaos from spreading to islands of decency like Jordan, Lebanon and Kurdistan in Iraq. But managing the decline of the Arab state system is not a problem we should own. We've amply proved that we don't know how.

So before you make up your mind on the Iran deal, ask how it affects Israel, the country most threatened by Iran. But also ask how it fits into a wider U.S. strategy aimed at quelling tensions in the Middle East with the least U.S. involvement necessary and the lowest oil prices possible. □



How to Fight Anti-Semitism



DAVID BROOKS

© 2015 New York Times

Anti-Semitism is rising around the world. So the question becomes: What can we do to fight it? Do education campaigns work, or marches or conferences?

There are three major strains of anti-Semitism circulating, different in kind and virulence, and requiring different responses.

In the Middle East, anti-Semitism has the feel of a deranged theoretical system for making sense of a world gone astray. Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, doesn't just oppose Israel. He has called it the "sinister, unclean rabid dog of the region." He has said its leaders "look like beasts and cannot be called human."

President Hassan Rouhani of Iran reinstated a conference of Holocaust deniers and anti-Semitic conspiracy theorists. Two of Iran's prominent former nuclear negotiators apparently attended. In Egypt, the top military staff attended a lecture on the Protocols of the Elders of Zion. The region is still rife with the usual conspiracy theories - that the Jews were behind 9/11, drink the blood of non-Jews, spray pesticides across Egyptian lands.

This sort of anti-Semitism thrives where there aren't that many Jews. The Jew is not a person but an idea, a unique carrier of transcendent evil: a pollution, a stain, a dark force responsible for the failures of others, the unconscious shame and primeval urges they feel

in themselves, and everything that needs explaining. This is a form of derangement, a flight from reality even in otherwise sophisticated people.

This form of anti-Semitism cannot be reasoned away because it doesn't exist on the level of reason. It can only be confronted with deterrence and force, at the level of fear. The challenge for Israel is to respond to extremism without being extreme. The enemy's rabidity can be used to justify cruelty, even in cases where restraint would be wiser. Israeli leaders try to walk this line, trying to use hard power, without becoming a mirror of the foe, sometimes well, sometimes not.

In Europe, anti-Semitism looks like a response to alienation. It's particularly high where unemployment is rampant. Roughly half of all Spaniards and Greeks express unfavorable opinions about Jews. The plague of violence is fueled by young Islamic men with no respect and no place to go.

In the current issue of *The Atlantic*, Jeffrey Goldberg has an essay, "Is It Time for the Jews to Leave Europe?" He reports on a blizzard of incidents: a Jewish school principal who watched a Frenchman of Algerian descent pin his 8-year-old daughter down in the schoolyard and execute her; a Swedish rabbi who has been the target of roughly 150 anti-Semitic attacks; French kids who were terrified in school because of the "Dirty Jew!" and "I want to kill all of you!" chants in the hallway; the Danish imam who urged worshippers in a Berlin mosque to kill the Jews, "Count them and kill them to the very last one."

Thousands of Jews a year are just fleeing Europe. But the best response is quarantine and confrontation. European governments can demonstrate solidarity with their Jewish citizens by providing security, cracking down - broken-windows style - on even the smallest assaults. Meanwhile, brave and decent people can take a page from Gandhi and stage

campaigns of confrontational nonviolence: marches, sit-ins and protests in the very neighborhoods where anti-Semitism breeds. Expose the evil of the perpetrators. Disturb the consciences of the good people in these communities who tolerate them. Confrontational nonviolence is the historically proven method to isolate and delegitimize social evil.

The United States is also seeing a rise in the number of anti-Semitic incidents. But this country remains an astonishingly non-anti-Semitic place. America's problem is the number of people who can't fathom what anti-Semitism is or who think Jews are being paranoid or excessively playing the victim.

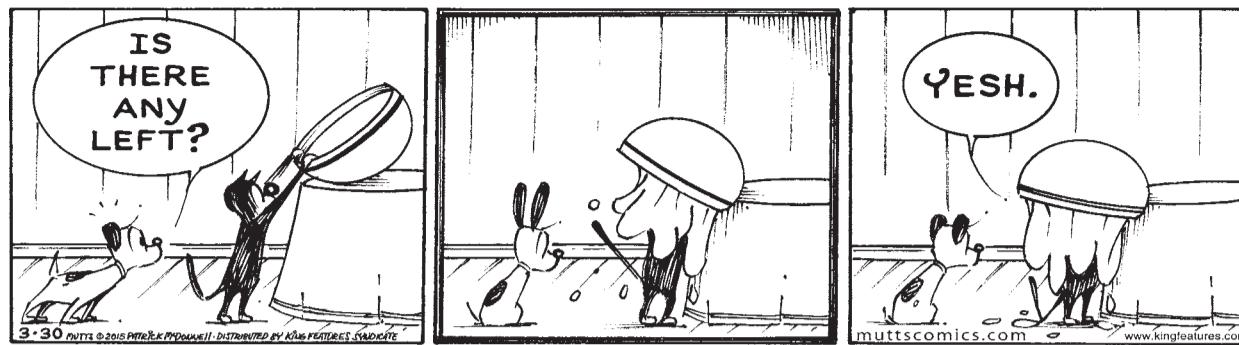
On college campuses, many young people have been raised in a climate of moral relativism and have no experience with those with virulent evil beliefs. They sometimes assume that if Israel is hated, then it must be because of its cruel and colonial policies in the West Bank.

In the Obama administration, there are people who know that the Iranians are anti-Semitic, but they don't know what to do with that fact and put this mental derangement on a distant shelf. They negotiate with the Iranian leaders, as if anti-Semitism was some odd quirk, instead of what it is, a core element of their mental architecture.

There are others who see anti-Semitism as another form of bigotry. But these are different evils. Most bigotry is an assertion of inferiority and speaks the language of oppression. Anti-Semitism is an assertion of impurity and speaks the language of extermination. Anti-Semitism's logical endpoint is violence.

Groups fighting anti-Semitism sponsor educational campaigns and do a lot of consciousness-raising. I doubt these things do anything to reduce active anti-Semitism. But they can help non-anti-Semites understand the different forms of the cancer in our midst. That's a start. □

Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

7	8	2	9	5	4	
		6	8	1		2
1						
4		3	8		2	
7			2		5	
5		1	4		3	
2						1
		5	1	3		
6	7	4	2	3	5	

Difficulty Level ★

3/30

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

5	2	4	3	7	8	1	9	6
8	3	6	1	5	9	2	7	4
9	1	7	4	2	6	8	3	5
7	8	9	5	3	4	6	1	2
1	5	3	6	8	2	9	4	7
4	6	2	7	9	1	5	8	3
6	4	5	8	1	7	3	2	9
3	9	1	2	4	5	7	6	8
2	7	8	9	6	3	4	5	1

ACROSS

1 Every which ____; in all directions
 4 Temple leader
 9 Family group
 13 Alimony recipients
 15 Arctic or Pacific
 16 Burn
 17 Good buy
 18 Not all ____; batty
 19 ____ up; spends
 20 Broke into bits
 22 Give up land
 23 Notices
 24 Sort; type
 26 "Little ____ Annie"
 29 Large colorful flower
 34 More miffed
 35 Raggedy Ann & Betsy Wetsy
 36 Crawling insect
 37 Actors' signals
 38 Syrup flavor
 39 The Bee Gees, for example
 40 Epoch
 41 Andersen's Fairy ____
 42 Underneath
 43 Famous
 45 Idiots
 46 Group of whales
 47 Steadfast
 48 Capable
 51 Setting up
 56 Abel's brother
 57 Mailman's beat
 58 Soothing drinks
 60 On ____; prompt
 61 Lazybones
 62 Vane direction
 63 Night twinkler
 64 Requirements
 65 "____ will be done..."

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

3/30/15

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

U	M	P	S	O	B	A	M	A	J	A	R
F	O	O	T	R	A	C	E	D	R	O	D
O	D	O	R	A	R	E	N	A	B	I	D
S	E	L	E	C	T	S	A	G	A	S	T
A	S	E	L	E	T	A	S	C	E	N	T
G	R	A	M	S	A	T	E	V	O	N	M
R	A	T	S	T	I	A	T	I	R	A	D
A	D	O	M	A	R	T	I	L	V	I	A
B	I	L	L	I	N	N	M	A	U	L	L
S	O	L	O	S	B	O	A	P	A	L	M
S	O	L	O	S	Y	E	A	R	N	M	A
E	M	B	A	R	G	O	F	I	N	I	C
C	O	A	L	L	A	B	E	L	S	A	N

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3/30/15

48 Performs on the house?
 49 Fishing lure
 50 Bean type
 52 ____ away; galloped off
 53 Reign
 54 ____ as a pin
 55 Deep long cut
 59 Pig's home

39 One who eats
 41 Afternoon hour
 42 Björn of tennis
 44 Can ____; lid
 45 Seven Dwarfs, by trade
 47 Destined

DOWN

1 Marry
 2 Chopping tools
 3 Slangy affirmative
 4 Spoiled ____; overindulged
 5 Muscle cramps

Apps

Classifieds

Continued from Page 23

Snapchat, which made its name with disappearing messages, also has a host of new features. The app has a payment service called Snapcash, and has a more traditional chat service as well as live video chat.

More recently, the company has moved toward becoming a media platform. Snapchat lets users create short videologues called Snapchat Stories. It has also partnered with media companies for its Snapchat Discover feature, which delivers short videos and even long text stories from companies like CNN, National Geographic and Vice.

WhatsApp, also owned by Facebook, keeps it simple. The app is slowly rolling out voice calling features to Android users, but does little else besides chat, video and photo sharing, and audio messages. That simplicity and focus on messaging with no texting charges (or ads) has made it the most popular messaging app in the world, with more than 600 million users.

So that raises the question: Does a messaging app need to do it all?

Blau at Gartner said e-commerce in an app, for example, "doesn't feel like a natural progression."

"We've always thought that e-commerce should fit in with social applications. It's marketing; there might be impulse-buy opportunities," he said. "But are social networks ready for a shopping mall experience?"

On the other hand, mobile payments make more sense because, he said, "you're standing in line at the grocery store; you're chatting on WeChat, and you press the payment app and you pay."

"You're using the app already," Blau said. "It's what you're already doing."

It's true that we're spending more time in messaging apps, but grafting on more features just because these apps have our attention could get annoying - especially if the features don't work well or they make the overall experience cluttered and confusing.□

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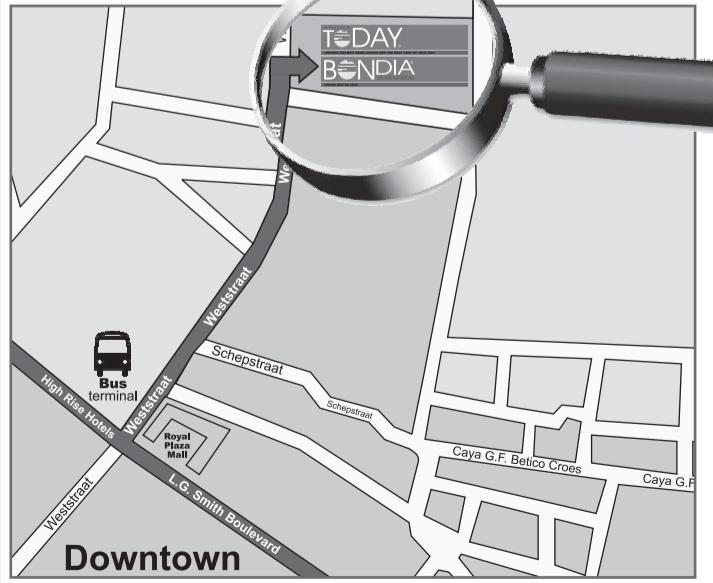
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Astronauts board space station for 1-year mission



The Soyuz-FG rocket booster with Soyuz TMA-16M space ship blasts off at the Russian leased Baikonur cosmodrome, Kazakhstan. Two Russians and an American floated into the International Space Station this weekend, beginning what is to be a year away from Earth for two of them.

(AP Photo/Dmitry Lovetsky)

DMITRY LOVETSKY
JIM HEINTZ
Associated Press
BAIKONUR, Kazakhstan
(AP) — Two Russians and an American floated into the International Space Station this weekend, beginning what is to be a year away from Earth for

two of them. Mikhail Kornienko and Scott Kelly are to spend 342 days aboard the orbiting laboratory, about twice as long as a standard mission on the station. Russia's Gennady Padalka is beginning a six-month stay. The three astronauts en-

tered the station about eight hours after launching from Russia's manned space facility in Kazakhstan. They were embraced by American Terry Virts and Russia's Anton Shkaplerov who along with Italian Samantha Cristoforetti have been aboard since late

November. The trip is NASA's first attempt at a one-year spaceflight; four Russians have spent a year or more in space, all on the Soviet-built Mir space station. The stay is aimed at measuring the effects of a prolonged period of weightlessness on the human body, a step toward possible missions to Mars or beyond.

Kelly's identical twin Mark, a retired astronaut, agreed to take part in many of the same medical experiments as his orbiting sibling to help scientists see how a body in space compares with its genetic double on Earth. They are 51.

Kelly and Kornienko, 54, will remain on board until next March. During that time, they will undergo extensive medical experiments, and prepare the station for the anticipated 2017 arrival of new U.S. commercial crew capsules. That means a series of spacewalks for Kelly, which will be his first.

The two men also will over-

see the comings and goings of numerous cargo ships, as well as other Russian-launched space crews and an expected September visit from singer Sarah Brightman on a "space tourist" trip.

Doctors are eager to learn what happens to Kelly and Kornienko once they surpass the usual six-month stay for space station residents.

Bones and muscles weaken in weightlessness, as does the immune system. Body fluids also shift into the head when gravity is absent, putting pressure on the brain and the eyes, impairing vision for some astronauts in space.

The yearlong stint will allow doctors to assess whether such conditions are aggravated by a long spell in space or whether they reach a point of stasis or even taper off.

As space officials look to longer missions, the International Space Station's future appears ensured until at least 2024. □

Study:

Ebola virus in latest outbreak does not show unusual mutations

PAM BELLUCK
© 2015 New York Times

Fears that the Ebola epidemic, the deadliest in history, was caused by a more lethal, fast-moving or easily transmissible virus than in previous outbreaks appear to be unfounded, according to a new study. The study, a genetic analysis published in the journal *Science*, is based on data that indicates the virus has mutated over time in a way that is similar to that of previous, smaller outbreaks.

Researchers say studies of more cases and more recent ones are still needed

to confirm these findings. But the new analysis offers encouraging evidence that tests used to diagnose Ebola patients, and vaccines and drugs being developed to prevent and treat the disease, can continue to be based on the typical mutation rate. It also means worries about doomsday scenarios, like the virus becoming transmissible by air, seem unlikely, experts say.

"It hasn't become increasingly lethal or increasingly virulent," said David Safro- netz, an author of the study and a staff scientist for the Laboratory of Virology at

the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. "The virus - it's doing what it's always done." Essentially, the study indicates, while this outbreak has infected 24,000 people and killed about 10,000, its scale has to do with where the epidemic erupted - at the intersection of three vulnerable countries - rather than with any unusual characteristics of the virus itself.

The scientists evaluated change in the virus over time by comparing genetic sequencing data from a small number of cases in Mali in October and

November with data from patients infected in Guinea last March and Sierra Leone in June.

They found that the number of mutations was about the same as in viruses in previous outbreaks, suggesting that the virus was not mutating faster. And they reported that the genetic changes they identified were not significant enough to make the virus more transmissible or deadlier.

"It doesn't suggest that the virus is getting any worse," said Dr. Thomas Ksiazek, an Ebola expert at the University of Texas Medical

Branch at Galveston, who was not involved in the study.

That supports the use and development of virus-specific lab tests and drugs calibrated according to the mutation rate seen in previous outbreaks.

"You would not predict from what they've published that we're going to have trouble with the diagnostics and vaccines and therapeutics" being developed, said Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, which partly financed the research. □

DreamWorks' 'Home' tops 'Get Hard' at box office with \$54M

JAKE COYLE
AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Business was brisk at the weekend box-office, where the DreamWorks animated alien adventure "Home" beat out the Will Ferrell-Kevin Hart comedy "Get Hard" with a resounding debut of \$54 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

While the two films had been expected to vie for the top spot at North American theaters, "Home" came in well above expectations, handing DreamWorks Animation a much-needed hit. Though a distant second, "Get Hard" also opened strongly with an estimated \$34.6 million, rewarding the Warner Bros. pairing of two of the most bankable stars in comedy. Last week's top film, the young-adult sequel "The Divergent Series: Insurgent," slid to third with \$22.1 million.

With a \$100 million-plus de-

but expected next weekend for "Furious 7" — a franchise built on street-racing adrenaline and a diverse cast — Hollywood scored with two films that sought a variety of audi-

protagonist (voiced by Rihanna). She plays a teenage girl left alone after an alien invasion of Earth. Jim Parsons, Jennifer Lopez and Steve Martin round out the cast.



In this image released by Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc., Kevin Hart, left, and Will Ferrell appear in a scene from the film, "Get Hard." (AP Photo/Patti Perret)

ences.

"Get Hard" united the fans of Hart and Ferrell, albeit while coming under some criticism for its racial humor. And "Home" is the rare animated film led by an African-American girl

"It's a diverse cast and we drew a diverse audience, which I think is really special and something you don't see in animated films," said Chris Aronson, domestic distribution head for 20th Century Fox, the film's dis-

tributor. "That just ends up broadening the appeal of the film."

Minorities made up more than half of the audience for "Home," according to Fox. The strong performance of an original release, based on a children's book by Adam Rex, provides Jeffrey Katzenberg's DreamWorks with a welcome lift. After a series of box-office disappointments, the studio cut about 500 jobs earlier this year.

Aronson called the success of "Home" "indicative of the direction, quality-wise, that DreamWorks is going to get back to." One of the film's producers, Mireille Soria, was in January named co-president of DreamWorks Animation, along with "How to Train Your Dragon" producer Bonnie Arnold.

Despite the lure of the college basketball championship tournament on TV screens, "Home" (which

capitalized on the relative dearth of family-friendly options) and "Get Hard" drove moviegoers to theaters. Overall, the box office was up about 8 percent from last year, according to box-office data firm Rentrak.

"Get Hard" had been dogged by controversy, as some questioned the tastefulness of humor that critics called homophobic and racist. The directorial debut of Etan Cohen, it stars Ferrell as a hedge fund manager sentenced to a maximum security prison for fraud. To prepare for life in prison, he turns to the only black person in his orbit, a family man played by Hart.

"When Will Ferrell and Kevin Hart get together, you hope to have some criticism," said Dan Fellman, head of domestic distribution for Warner Bros. He added that it's the biggest R-rated opening for both Hart and Ferrell. □

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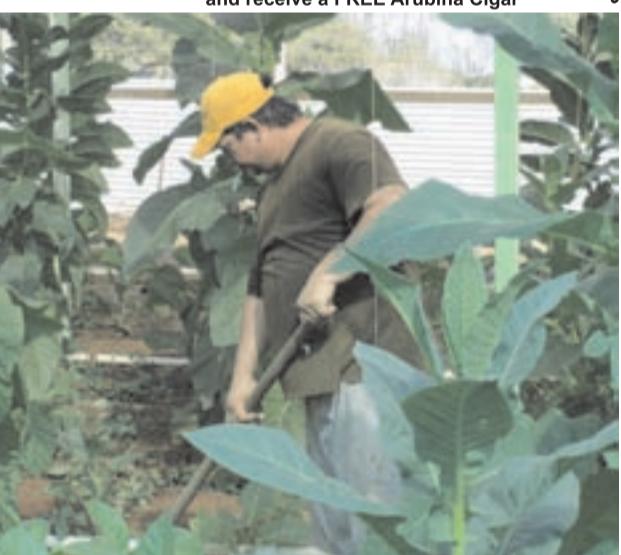
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Aruhiba as a promotion for Aruba through its fine cigars. The company sells Aruhiba to the international markets as well. Visit their retail store located in front of the Historic Dutch Windmill in front of the RIO Hotel, with any purchase of \$20 and up you receive a free "Aruhiba" cigar or ask for their gift box of 5 cigars get 1 FREE for only \$37. They open from Monday to Saturday from 9 am till 6:30 pm and on Sundays from 10 am to 4 pm. Aruhiba cigars are now available at the gift stores in your resort and at well-known cigar stores. For their complete selection and attractive by the box prices visit their retail store. Tours are also



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Michelle Obama declares 'Black Girls Rock!'



First Lady Michelle Obama, left, waves while standing on stage with Making A Difference award winners, from left, Kaya Thomas, Chental-Song Bembry and Gabrielle Jordan during a taping of the Black Girls Rock award ceremony at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, Saturday, March 28, 2015, in Newark.

(AP Photo/Julio Cortez)

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**NEKESA MUMBI MOODY
AP Entertainment Writer**

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — First Lady Michelle Obama celebrated the beauty, power and tenacity of black women while spreading her own message of education for girls at Black Girls Rock!, an annual event honoring trailblazing women of color from all walks of life.

"No matter who you are, no matter where you come from, you are beautiful," Obama told the crowd, which included many young black girls.

"I am so proud of you. My husband, your president, is so proud of you," she added. "We have so much hope and dreams for you." Obama was not among the honorees at Saturday night's festivities, held at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center. That distinction went to actress Jada Pinkett Smith, singer Erykah Badu, actress Cicely Tyson, "Selma" director Ava DuVernay, educator Nadia Lopez and Dr. Helene D. Gayle, president and CEO of CARE USA, a humanitarian organization.

However, Obama was the most celebrated participant. Wearing a form-fitting white dress, she jammed to performances from the likes of Badu, Fantasia, Sheila E!, Estelle and others and applauded the honorees.

Obama got arguably the night's loudest ovation as she came on stage and declared "Black girls rock!" — the slogan and name of the organization founded by Beverly Bond. It is designed to uplift young black girls, a group that often has difficulty finding positive and reaffirming images of themselves in the world.

Obama acknowledged as much in her speech to celebrate three young honorees.

"I know there are voices that you are not good enough," she said, acknowledging that she often lacked self-confidence growing up despite encouraging parents.

"Each of those doubts was like a test," she said, "that

I either shrink away from or rise to meet. And I decided to rise."

Obama, who recently completed a trip to Japan and Cambodia as part of her worldwide push for better educational opportunities for girls, lauded the young honorees for excelling in their studies.

"There is nothing more important than being serious about your education," the Ivy League-educated Obama said. "That's why I am able to stand here tonight. ... I want every one of our black girls do to the same, and our black boys." Obama's speech was just one of many highlights of the nearly four-hour event, which will be shown Sunday, April 5, on BET.

Will Smith gave an emotional tribute to his wife, Jada Pinkett Smith, who received the Star Power award. Smith alluded to persistent rumors that the couple's marriage was in trouble.

He said when one rumor got out of control, he had a chance for reflection.

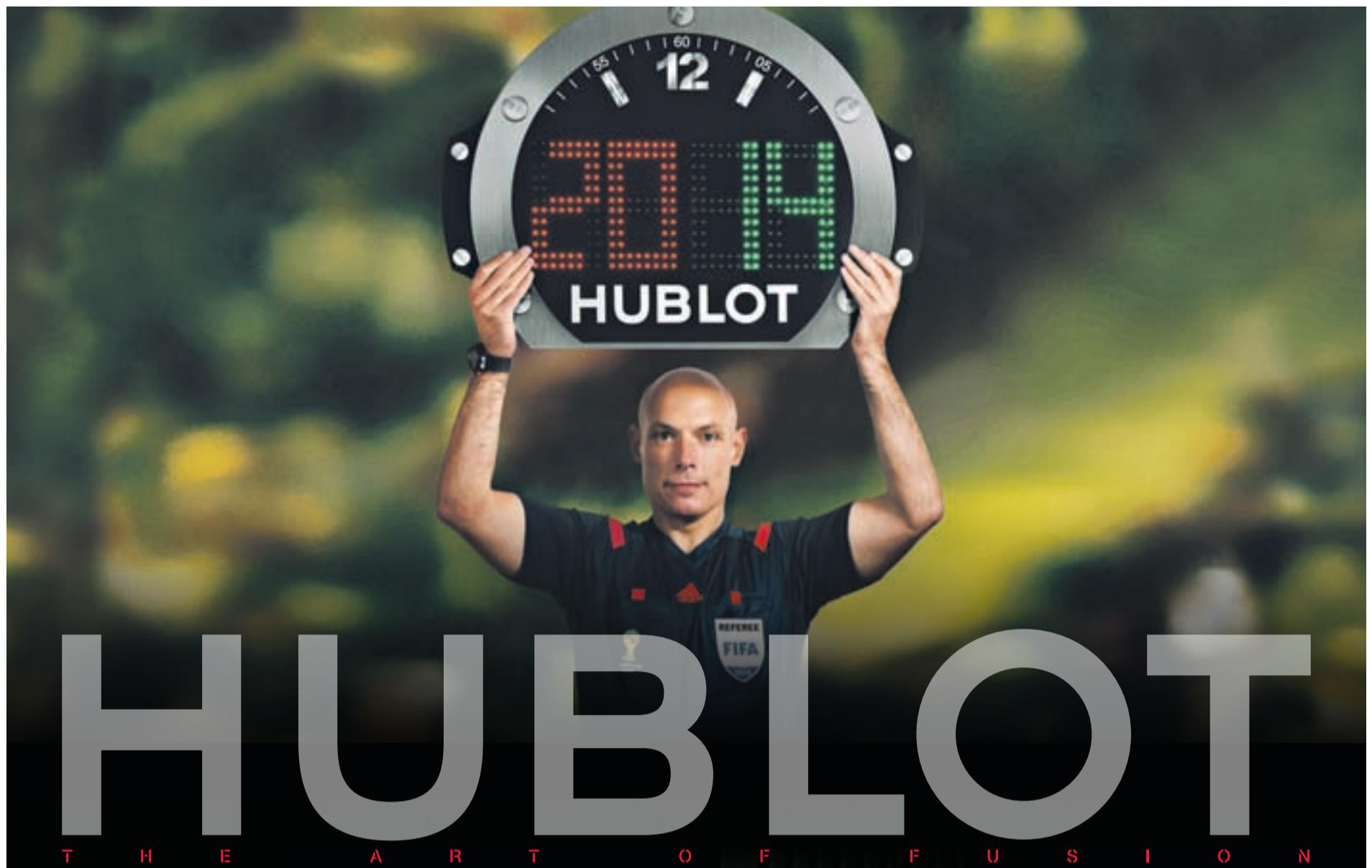
"In that brief moment my heart jumped for a second and I started to imagine what my life would have been like without that woman," he said as the couple's daughter, Willow, beamed from the audience.

When Pinkett Smith accepted the honor, she alluded to recent slights of black girls and women — including a college baseball player's slur against Little League pitcher Mo'ne Davis — as reasons why Black Girls Rock! is necessary.

She also implored black women to celebrate and be aware of their own strength.

"I need you to understand that we are the women who marched from cotton fields into fields of medicine ... politics ... entertainment," she said. "We have found a way to march into the White House."

Tyson also spoke to the resiliency of black women as she accepted her legacy award from hosts actresses Tracee Ellis Ross and Regina King. □



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